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BRADFORD-ON-AVON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER

FOR THE YEAR

1950.

MINISTRY OF HEALTH LIBRARY

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In 1949, the Council decided to make separate appointments of a surveyor and a sanitary inspector.

Mr. T. J. Lees, M.S.I.A., holding the R.S.I. Meat Certificate, was appointed, and commenced on 9th January, 1950.

This report, therefore, for the first time embodies the work carried out by a full-time public health official. It will be appreciated that in past years there have been several periods of varying numbers of months in which this work could only be covered by myself (when not on sick leave) and the clerk, with the greatly appreciated assistance of officials (medical officer, surveyors and sanitary inspectors) from neighbouring districts.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Area	2,005 acres
Population	5,590
Rateable Value	£26,543
Sum represented by Penny Rate	£103/15/7

VITAL STATISTICS.

Population ... 5,590

	M.	F.	Total	
Live Births—Legitimate ...	41	49	90	
Illegitimate ...	1	0	1	
Total ...	42	49	91	
Still Births—Legitimate ...	1	1	2	
Illegitimate ...	0	0	0	
Total ...	1	1	2	
Deaths from all causes ...	44	40	84	
Deaths of Infants under 1 year:				
Legitimate	1	1	2	
Illegitimate	0	0	0	
Total ...	1	1	2	
Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks	1	0	1	(Legitimate)

	Urban District		England and Wales
Crude Live Birth rate	16·28	per 1,000 of population. Comparison	15·8
Corrected Birth rate (Comparability Factor 1·01)	16·43		
Still Birth rate	0·35	per 1,000 of population. ,,	0·37
Crude Death rate : All Causes	15·02	per 1,000 of population. ,,	11·6
Corrected Death rate (Comparability Factor ·83)	12·46		
Infants under 1 year	21·9	per 1,000 live births. ,,	29·8
Death rate of Infants under 4 weeks	10·9	per 1,000 live births. ,,	—

Analysis of deaths from all causes.

	Male	Female	Total
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System ...	—	—	—
Other forms of Tuberculosis	—	—	—
Syphilitic Diseases	—	1	1
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infections	—	—	—
Acute Polio-Myelitis	—	—	—
Measles	—	—	—
Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases ...	—	1	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	2	0	2
Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus ...	—	—	—
Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	—	2	2
Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	—	—	—
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	7	2	9
Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	—	—	—
Diabetes	—	—	—
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System ...	9	8	17
Coronary Disease, Angina	7	2	9
Hypertension with Heart Disease ...	—	—	—
Other Heart Diseases	8	18	26
Other Circulatory Diseases	1	—	1
Influenza	—	—	—
Pneumonia	1	3	4
Bronchitis	—	—	—
Other Diseases of Respiratory System ...	—	—	—
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	—	—	—
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea ...	—	1	1
Nephritis and Nephrosis	—	—	—
Hyperplasia of Prostate	1	—	1
Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	—	—	—
Congenital Malformations	—	—	—
Other Defined and Ill-defined Diseases ...	7	2	9
Motor Vehicle Accidents	—	—	—
All other Accidents	1	—	1
Suicide	—	—	—
Homicide and Operations of War ...	—	—	—
TOTALS	44	40	84

NOTES ON VITAL STATISTICS.

1. *Comparability Factors.* Area comparability factors for births and for deaths, allowing for the differing age and sex distribution of the population in different areas, are given and may be used for comparing birth rates and death rates with those in other areas.

This is the first time that a comparability factor for births has been provided.

2. It will be observed that the Analysis of Deaths is different. The deaths are now classified under the 36 headings based on the Abbreviated List of the International Statistical Classification of Diseases, Injuries and Causes of Death, 1948.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.

I. Staff.

1. *One part-time Medical Officer,* who is also Medical Officer of Health to the Trowbridge Urban Council and the Bradford and Melksham Rural District Council, and Assistant County Medical Officer. From 1st April to 31st December Melksham Urban District was added temporarily until a new appointment could be made.
2. *Sanitary Inspector and Housing Officer.* T. J. Lees, M.S.I.A., R.S.I.
3. *A part-time typist* who also works for the Trowbridge Sanitary Inspectors.
4. *A part-time Rodent Operator.*

II. (a) *Laboratory Facilities.* The Salisbury Area Pathological Laboratory, stationed in the Salisbury Infirmary precincts, undertakes all necessary bacteriological and pathological examinations. The distance (33 miles) causes difficulties in the transmission and transport of specimens; these difficulties are more than outweighed by the courtesy shown and assistance given by all the staff.

(b) *Ambulance Facilities.* The Ambulance Station for the area of the County Council Ambulance Service, is stationed at Woolley Grange, in this town.

(c) *Nursing in the Home.* There are two district nurses—one midwife, one general.

(d) *Home Helps.* The County Council Home Helps service is giving great assistance in cases of acute illness and even more in giving sufficient assistance in the homes of aged persons to prevent them having to be moved to Institutions. It must be understood very clearly that Home Helps must not be expected to do Home Nursing.

(e) *Treatment Centres and Clinics.* A Child Welfare Clinic is held at the Church House on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday. I, myself, as an Assistant County Medical Officer, the Health Visitor (Miss Francis) and the two district nurses (when free from other duties) attend each session.

(f) *Hospital Accommodation and Maternity Homes.*

1. The Bradford-on-Avon District Hospital continues to be available for general cases. During the year it was closed for a period due to illness and shortage and changes of staff.
2. *Berryfield Maternity Hospital.* This establishment is used for cases from the Hospital Management Committee's area.
3. *Trowbridge and District Isolation Hospital.* This hospital continues to admit cases of infectious disease requiring hospital treatment. It also has beds for 8 tuberculosis cases. When the beds are not required for infectious diseases, they are used for general medical purposes.

4. *Claverton (Bath) Isolation Hospital.* All cases of suspected and proved cases of polio-myelitis are admitted to this hospital and transferred when necessary to the Bath and Wessex Orthopaedic Hospital.

National Assistance Act, 1948, *Section* 47.

During the year two cases came under the consideration of this Section. The first, a man of over 70 living alone in his own house with the remains of small private means, became a nuisance to the neighbours both in the Public Health meaning of the phrase and in other ways also. Before a case could be taken under Section 47, he appeared before the magistrates on a charge, and was fined. He was admitted to St. Georges, Semington, for 3 months, but during the period he proved unfit to be treated as a welfare case and was transferred under the Lunacy Acts.

The other case, an ill, oldish man, living in his own house, came under observation as part of his property became dangerous, and it was apparent that he was too ill to be troubled with business. After stimulating members of his family (all over 70 and several in poor health) and persons living in the house, he was reasonably looked after till he died without further action being taken. His own doctor had tried in vain to get him to leave his house and be admitted to hospital—once the ambulance was at the door and he changed his mind at the last moment.

As has been said in another part of this report, action under this Act has been avoided through the assistance given to other aged persons by the Home Help service, administered by the Council; the Health Visitor for this town (Miss Francis) is, and has been, most assiduous in obtaining suitable helps in each case.

One case further must be referred to, as the Council's officers were approached by an owner of property to remove a man who had continued living alone in a house after the death of his mother. The case, as put, suggested that the house was disgracefully kept and the man unfit to be in it. On investigation it was found that there were no grounds on which any recommendation could be made to the Council : the owners wished to get the tenant out in order to combine it with the one in which they lived.

SANITARY CONDITIONS OF AREA.

Water Supply.—32 samples of water were taken from the town mains. The results indicate that the chlorination appartus functioned satisfactorily.

Reports on Bacteriological Examination of Water.

Water sample received on 19/1/50 at 9.30 a.m. from Westbury House, Main; Bradford-on-Avon Urban District Council.

1. Bacteriological Count. Total colonies growing on agar at 37°C. in 48 hours : THREE per 1 m.l. of water.

2. B. Coli Counts at 37°C. in 48 hours and 44°C. in 48 hours :

Quantity of water tested.	*Acid and gas from lactose.*									
	at 37°C.					44°C.				
Five tubes of 10 m.l. water	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Five tubes of 1 m.l. water	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

As a result of calculations made from above :

(1) Number of Coli Aerogenes per 100 m.l. growing at 37°C. : NIL.

(2) Number of Faecal types of B. Coli per 100 m.l. growing at 44°C. : NIL.

Opinion. Bacteriological examination shows no evidence of pollution. We regret there was insufficient water to test for residual chlorine.

Date 23/1/50. (Signed) H. W. H. KENNARD, *Pathologist.*

Water sample received on 27/3/50 at 3.30 p.m. from Main Station; Bradford-on-Avon Urban District Council.

1. Bacteriological Count. Total colonies growing on agar at 37°C. in 48 hours : ONE per 1 m.l. of water.

2. B. Coli Counts at 37°C. in 48 hours and 44°C. in 48 hours :

Quantity of water tested.	*Acid and gas from lactose.*									
	at 37°C.					44°C.				
Five tubes of 10 m.l. water	+	+	+	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Five tubes of 1 m.l. water	+	+	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

As a result of calculations made from above :

(1) Number of Coli Aerogenes per 100 m.l. growing at 37°C. : FOURTEEN.

(2) Number of Faecal types of B. Coli per 100 m.l. growing at 44°C. : NIL.

Opinion. Bacteriological examination shows a slight degree of pollution with coliform organisms of the non-faecal type.

Date 29/3/50. (Signed) H. W. H. KENNARD, *Pathologist.*

Water sample received on 13/4/50 at 9.30 a.m. from Main, Westbury House; Bradford-on-Avon Urban District Council.

1. Bacteriological Count. Total colonies growing on agar at 37°C. in 48 hours : THREE per 1 m.l. of water.

2. B. Coli Counts at 37°C. in 48 hours and 44°C. in 48 hours :

Quantity of water tested.	*Acid and gas from lactose.*									
	at 37°C.					44°C.				
Five tubes of 10 m.l. water	+	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Five tubes of 1 m.l. water	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

As a result of calculations made from above :

(1) Number of Coli Aerogenes per 100 m.l. growing at 37°C. : THREE.

(2) Number of Faecal types of B. Coli per 100 m.l. growing at 44°C. : NIL.

Opinion. Bacteriological examination shows a very small degree of polution with non-faecal coliform organisms.

Date 15/4/50. (Signed) H. W. H. KENNARD, *Pathologist.*

IMPROVEMENTS TO WATER SUPPLY :—

1. *Higher Level Improvement Scheme.* The laying of the new main to supply the higher reaches of the town was commenced.

2. *New Reservoir.* Preliminary work had been carried out for the new reservoir to be placed beside the existing one.

REFUSE DISPOSAL.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.—The weekly collection of refuse continues despite the expansion of the town. Waste paper salvage was started in August, the yield being approximately 3 tons per month.

During the year the new extension to the refuse tip was opened, and tipping started in June. Fly infestation on the tip during the summer months was sufficient to cause anxiety in view of the nearness of the housing estate. Spraying was carried out regularly (in very warm weather as often as four times a day), but the difficulty remains in obtaining sufficient earth or other cover to seal the tip completely.

SEWAGE WORKS.—During the year the Surveyor (appointed December, 1949) was instructed by the Council to prepare a scheme for the improvement of the sewage works. Alterations were made to the settlement tank, and a more satisfactory effluent was obtained.

SEWERAGE.—No alteration of existing sewerage, but additions for the new housing estates were continued.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Age Group	Scarlet Fever		Measles		Acute Poliomyelitis		Whooping Cough	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	3
1	—	—	1	1	—	—	3	7
3	—	—	1	1	—	—	3	2
5	1	3	5	8	—	—	10	3
10	—	3	—	—	—	—	1	—
15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Age Unknown	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
TOTALS ...	1	6	8	11	—	—	17	16

Age Group	Acute Pneumonia	
	M	F
0	1	—
5	1	2
15	1	—
45	—	—
65	—	—
Totals ...	3	2

HOUSING.

Housing Act, 1936.—During the year nine houses were reported as unfit for human habitation. Formal action was taken in two cases and undertakings were received from the owners that the houses would not be relet until they were made fit for habitation.

Of the remaining seven, informal undertakings were received from the owners of three of the houses and three others were vacant awaiting repair. The remaining house was situated in an area which it is proposed to redevelop as a whole.

Housing.—During the year, 31 new houses were completed in the post war programme. Progress was made in the rehousing of families living in undesirable circumstances.

Avonfield. This site was practically completed by the end of the year; 58 out of the 62 houses were occupied.

New Road. The roads and sewers for this site were completed and work on the houses had commenced.

Housing Act, Section 20, 1949.—One reconstruction carried out; one withdrawn.

Private Enterprise.—One house completed; five under construction.

Public Health Act, 1936.

Nuisances detected	62
Nuisances abated	51
Visits to houses in connection with statutory nuisances ...	108
Informal notices served	44
Informal notices complied with	40
Formal notices served	—
Formal notices complied with	—

SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

Registered slaughterhouses	2
Licenced slaughterhouses	3

No slaughtering has occurred at the above during the year.

DAIRIES AND DISTRIBUTORS OF MILK.

PRODUCTION-MILK SUPPLY.—The supervision of dairy farming methods is now the responsibility of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

DISTRIBUTION AND SALE.—The new Milk and Dairies Regulations have proved somewhat difficult to enforce in times of acute shortage.

There exist the following licences to retail milk :—

Licence to retail Pasteurised milk	2
Licence to retail Tuberculin Tested milk	1
Licence to retail Tuberculin Tested milk (Subsidiary) ...	1
Licence to retail Undesignated milk	2

There has been an improvement in the method of delivery of milk during the year. The wide-necked bottle with cardboard cap is slowly dying out and is being replaced by the narrow-necked bottle with overlapping foil caps, and it is hoped that those retailers who still distribute milk from cans will be persuaded to change to bottles in the near future.

MILK SAMPLING.—During the year 41 samples were taken and submitted for bacteriological examination. Seven failed to reach the required standard and were followed up. Three samples were submitted for biological examination and were found to be free from the Tubercle Bacillus.

SHOPS, STALLS AND PLACES WHERE FOOD IS PREPARED.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.

The following are the food premises existing in the town at 31/12/50: Butchers 5; Bakeries 4; Grocers 6; Fruiterers and Fishmongers 4; Cafes and Snack Bars 3; General Stores 6; Fried Fish Shops 1; Confectioners 4; Fish Preparation Rooms 1.

VISITS.—98 visits were made to food premises during the year and the following work was carried out as a result :—

Hot water supplied	3
Sinks supplied	4
New floors laid	1
New sanitary accommodation	2
Glass screens erected	1
General cleanliness improved	3
Refuse bins provided	4

ICE CREAM.—

Retail premises registered at 31/12/49	6
Retail premises registered granted during the year	4
	10

Ice cream is also sold at the cinema but is not registered under the Food and Drugs Act. There are no ice cream manufacturers registered in the town although one retailer makes " lolli-ices " on the premises.

Therefore, all ice cream sold from shops in the town is purchased from well-known suppliers who pasteurise on their own premises; is stored in modern electric refrigerators and is sold in unopened containers. It would appear, therefore, that the ice cream supply can, in general, be regarded as satisfactory. It is intended to start routine sampling in 1951.

RODENT CONTROL.

Sewer treatments were carried out in February and October. There is no great infestation in the town but, as might be expected, the older areas (Newtown, Tory and Whitehill) have minor infestations which it seems impossible to eradicate entirely.

PUBLIC BATHS.

Four samples were taken, the results being satisfactory. The chlorination apparatus failed for approximately fourteen days during the summer but chlorination was maintained by the addition of chemicals. The new plant (a rapid-sand filter, chlorinator, and aerator) worked most satisfactorily, producing good analyses.

Report on Bacteriological Examination of Water.

Water sample received on 13/4/50 at 9.30 a.m. from Westbury House (Baths); Bradford-on-Avon Urban District Council.

1. Bacteriological Count. Total colonies growing on agar at 37°C. in 48 hours: NIL per 1 m.l. of water.

2. B. Coli Counts at 37°C. in 48 hours and 44°C. in 48 hours:

Quantity of water tested.	*Acid and gas from lactose.*									
	at 37°C.					44°C.				
Five tubes of 10 m.l. water	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Five tubes of 1 m.l. water	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

As a result of calculations made from above:

(1) Number of Coli Aerogenes per 100 m.l. growing at 37°C.: NIL.

(2) Number of Faecal types of B. Coli per 100 m.l. growing at 44°C.: NIL.

Opinion. Bacteriological examination shows no evidence of pollution.

Date 15/4/50. (Signed) H. W. H. KENNARD, *Pathologist.*

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

1.—INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

Premises (1)	M/c line No. (2)	Number on Register (3)	Number of: Inspections (4)	Written notices (5)	Occupiers prosecuted (6)	M/c line No. (7)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	1	3	3	—	—	1
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	2	29	26	11	—	2
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises) ...	3	—	—	—	—	3
TOTAL		32	29	11	—	

2.—Cases in which DEFECTS were found.

Particulars (1)	M/c line No. (2)	Number of cases in which defects were found: Found (3)	Remedied (4)	Referred: To H.M. Inspector (5)	By H.M. Inspector (6)	Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (7)	M/c line No. (8)
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	4	5	5	—	—	—	4
Overcrowding (S.2)	5	—	—	—	—	—	5
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	6	—	—	—	—	—	6
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	7	—	—	—	—	—	7
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	8	—	—	—	—	—	8
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7) (*a*) insufficient	9	—	—	—	—	—	9
(*b*) unsuitable or defective	10	6	6	—	3	—	10
(*c*) not separate for sexes	11	—	—	—	—	—	11
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	12	—	—	—	—	—	12
TOTAL		11	11	—	3	—	

OUTWORK.

(Sections 110 and 111).

Nature of Work	M/c line No.	Section 110			Section 111			M/c line No.
		No. of out-workers in August list required by Sect. 110 (1) (c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecutions	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)
Wearing apparel: Making, etc. ...	13	11	—	—	—	—	—	13
Wearing apparel: Cleaning and washing	14	—	—	—	—	—	—	14

JEAN MURRAY, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.,
Medical Officer of Health.

THOMAS J. LEES, M.S.I.A.,
Sanitary Inspector.